

REMARKS

Independent claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lange et al. Claim 16 calls for receiving personal agent software from a subscriber, detecting the occurrence of a network event, upon detecting the occurrence of a network event, determining whether personal agent software for the event is available, and executing said software to provide services to said subscriber. It is respectfully submitted that Lange does not teach or suggest determining whether personal agent software for a network event is available in response to the detection of the occurrence of a network event. Further, there is no suggestion or motivation within Lange to modify Lange.

Lange does not explicitly teach determining whether personal agent software is available. *See* Office action dated August 3, 2004, pages 2-3. More to the point, Lange does not explicitly teach detecting the occurrence of a network event, and upon detecting the occurrence of a network event, determining whether personal agent software for the event is available. For example, Lange divides processing time into time slices. Column 23, lines 3-27; Figure 14. Generally, an agent is selected to perform its task during a given time slice. *Id.* In this way, each agent (standard or customized) is given processing time to make progress in performing its designated task. *Id.* However, Lange does not specifically teach how an agent is selected by the agent server 20. *See* column 23, lines 16-27. In fact, pursuant to the method 500, agents may be sequentially selected to execute a time slot. *See* Figure 14. Thus, Lange fails to specifically disclose selecting an agent for execution *in response to a network event*.

To further illustrate, after agent selection, the event handler for Lange's agent *may* be executed. Column 23, line 30-column 24, line 12; Figure 15. That is, *if* the selected agent has a pending event and a handler for responding to the pending event, the event handler may be executed. *Id.* However, if the agent does not have a handler for the event, the agent is stored and the process ends. *Id.* Thus, Lange apparently cycles through agents to determine if an agent has a routine to handle an event.

Although an event handler in Lange may be invoked in response to the occurrence of a particular event, the event handler is not executed unless it is for the agent selected in given time slice. *See, e.g.,* column 24, lines 22-23 and 43-45. In other words, events are handled in Lange when an agent with a handler for an event is selected for execution in a time slice. Thus, Lange does not teach or suggest detecting the occurrence of a network event, and in response to

detecting the occurrence of the network event determining whether personal agent software for the event is available.

Furthermore, permissions, which are not even considered until after it is determined that a selected agent has a handler for the pending event, do not provide a suggestion or motivation to modify Lange to respond to the detection of a network event as claimed. That is, an agent must first be selected before permissions are scrutinized. Lange is silent regarding how an agent is selected for a given time slice. As such, *prima facie* obviousness has not been established with respect to claim 16 or claims dependent thereon.

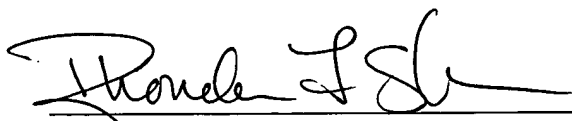
With respect to dependent claim 18, Lange fails to disclose if personal agent software for the event is not available, processing the event using network event processing. As explained above, if a select agent in Lange does not have an event handler for the relevant event, the agent is stored and the method ends. Therefore, if none of the selected agents have a handler for the event, the event apparently does not get handled. Accordingly, *prima facie* obviousness has not been established with respect to claim 18.

Under a similar analysis, *prima facie* obviousness has not been established with respect to claims 21 and 26, and respective dependent claims.

In view of the remarks herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. The examiner's prompt action in accordance therewith is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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